Savings due to Decentralised Procurement of Foodgrains

1221. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of money Government would save from the decentralised procurement of foodgrains practice for the current year;

(b) in what way Government would make us of these savings;

(c) whether Government would pass the savings to the farmers or the consumers; and

(d) if so, what is the mechanism adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The quantum of saving would be the difference between the Economic Cost of FCI and the j>tate Government which adopts the Scheme of Decentralized Procurement.

During the year 2000-2001, a saving of Rs. 141.36 crores (provisional) has been effected as a result of the adoption of the Scheme in the three States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. During the meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers/Union Ministers held on 6.7.2001, it has been decided that further consultations could be held with the State Governments, and sharing of gains under the scheme will be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

Changes in Policies for distribution and disposal of Surplus Stock

1222. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: .
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has suggested far-reaching changes in the policies governing production,

procurement and distribution of foodgrains and also disposal of Food Corporation of India's surplus stocks;

(b) if so, whether report on price policy for kharif crops of 2001-2002 season was submitted to Government recently;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when these suggestions are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The Report of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices on price policy for Kharif Crops of 2001-2002 is at present under consideration of the Government. The contents of the report are kept secret till the announcement of the price policy.

PIL on Starvation Deaths

1223. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI CO. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently asked the Centre and six States to respond to a PIL alleging starvation deaths in drought and famine-hit areas because of the Food Corporation of India's failure to supply foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the Centre and the States have already submitted their replies to the Supreme Court;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is the Supreme Court's reaction on this issue; and

(e) whether any directive has been issued by the Supreme Court to deal with such failures in future?